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In spite of its free tuition, the New West School began to drop in attendance after a few years, and by 1889 it was closed down.



Midway's New West School conducted in Van Wagoner Hall in 1886

A few private schools also existed in Midway during the 1880's. Mrs. Elizabeth Alexander conducted a summer school for about eight or ten pupils who were too young to work on the farms. Mrs. Mary Bronson also had a school in her home. Another private tutor was Sarah Woods, a sister of Mrs. Bronson.

Other private schools were organized to teach specific subjects, and generally were open to anyone interested. Leo Haefeli conducted a writing school in the old German Hall, a building just north of the public square. This was conducted in the evening, and pupils brought their own writing materials and copy books. John Huber taught a music singing class and writing also in the evening.

Attewall Wootton, in addition to his day-school activities, also organized a night school for young married people and other adults to study civics, debating, music, dramatics and to engage in wholesome recreation and open forums.

As was the case in all pioneer communities, the school shared the same facilities. While this was use of the building in Midway, it was the source of beginning about 1869.

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New West School Teachers in  
Midway from 1885 to 1889:  
1886 - 1899

Anna Viola LaRose of Illinois  
Elizabeth Jones from Wesleyan College  
of Massachusetts

Etta Hunt

Miss Anna Slosson

Mrs. J. C. Caldwell

Rena Clark

Frances Buck

Geneva Green

Lizzie Abbott Bond

Jesse Hunt

Emma Abbott

Sarah E Jones

Ref.: HBUM pp 600-601

Wooden ship/ap construction

The first part of the book is devoted to a description of the various forms of life which are found in the different parts of the world. The second part is devoted to a description of the various forms of life which are found in the different parts of the world. The third part is devoted to a description of the various forms of life which are found in the different parts of the world.

Search Project: Van Wagoner Hall - Midway

Date Began: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Finished: \_\_\_\_\_

What To do or Who To ask:

1. Picture - HBUM p 601
2. Where was it located
3. Talk to Paul Van Wagoner
4. " " El Roy "
5. Good pict - p 601 803-4
6. Copy HBUM pp 803-4

Date Done

3-18-88

10-24-87

11-6-87



Midway - New West School conducted in Van Wagoner Hall in 1887

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hauling rock or coal, working with a team, assisting the mason or by paying a few dollars toward the teacher's salary.

Even though taxes were to pay the costs of the school, many found difficulty in paying them in cash. So more often than not, the pupils attended by paying tuition. The teachers received their salaries by living with families of the students and by accepting produce, potatoes, wheat, flour, or most any other product that they could use.

The new school was completed in time for the 1868-69 school term, and Attewall Wootton, Sr. was hired as the new principal. He was a well-trained educator, and possessed a keen mind. At the age of six he had read "The Book of Mormon." Because of his aptitude, he was given every opportunity for learning that pioneer life could afford. He quickly mastered all that his teachers knew, and soon became a teacher himself. His first assignment was in the schools of American Fork.

After his marriage to Cynthia J. Jewett, one of his classmates, Mr. Wootton drove a herd of cattle into Wasatch County for his stepfather, and decided to settle in Midway. He became principal of the new school and served until 1887 when he became Superintendent of Schools in Wasatch County, a position which he held for many years. Three generations of Wasatch County residents were trained under his direction.

Add  
whole  
page  
of 600

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As was the case in all pioneer communities, the Church and the school shared the same facilities. While this was the most practical use of the building in Midway, it was the source of considerable trouble beginning about 1869.

This was the year that the transcontinental railroad was completed through Utah, and with the new "iron horses" came many non-members of the Church. A great number of these people of other religious beliefs settled in or near Midway because of the mining boom that resulted in Park City and other places in Wasatch County.

Serious difficulties arose when many non-members of the Church refused to have their children attend schools in buildings that were used by the Mormons for their religious worship. As a result, many denominational schools were established. These church schools were also a subtle missionary effort on the part of the various religious groups, since they boasted free tuition, something the poor Mormon pioneers found hard to compete with.

In 1885, the New West Education Commission, a society of the Congregational Church, opened a school in Midway. Many pupils attended because there was no tuition charge. The teachers were well trained, with most of them coming from the east. Some of the first teachers at the New West school were Anna Viola La Rose from Illinois, Elizabeth Jones from Wesleyan College of Massachusetts and Etta Hunt. Other teachers through the years included Miss Anna Slosson, Mrs. J. C. Caldwell, Rena Clark, Frances Buck, Geneva Green, Lizzie Abbott Bond,

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#### KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

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